

ORIGINAL

CEDRIC M. WRIGHT v. ST. LOUIS BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS, et al
Deposition of CEDRIC M. WRIGHT taken on 07/25/2013

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

CEDRIC M. WRIGHT,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	No. 4:12-CV-00107 AGF
)	
ST. LOUIS BOARD OF)	
POLICE COMMISSIONERS,)	
et al,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

Deposition of CEDRIC M. WRIGHT
taken on behalf of the Defendants
July 25, 2013

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1 application for that?

2 A. I went to the office on Chouteau and
3 filled out the application and talked to my
4 counselor.

5 Q. Do you remember when you did that? Was
6 it before or after the August -- October of 2011?

7 A. That was before.

8 Q. Okay. And have you had those
9 continuously since you applied?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you know how -- Was it -- Would it
12 have been, like, after you got laid off at Brown
13 Bedding, is that when you applied?

14 A. No, it was -- it was, like, last year,
15 like in June, somewhere in there.

16 Q. Okay. So, around June of 2012 you think
17 you applied? And I don't mean to confuse you. If
18 you want to think about it.

19 A. Yes, it's, like, two thousand -- yeah --
20 twelve 'cause --

21 Q. Okay. So, you weren't getting the food
22 stamps before you got arrested in August of 2011?

23 A. Oh, yes, yes, I was getting them then,
24 but you only do it once and then it go up to a year,
25 so --

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1 Q. So, you reapply every year?

2 A. Yeah, every year.

3 Q. Okay. Do you know about how many years
4 you've been receiving the food stamp benefits?

5 A. About two years, three years.

6 Q. Okay. Do you remember how much you were
7 making either per hour or what your salary was at
8 Brown Bedding?

9 A. I would say, like, 200 a week.

10 Q. \$200 a week?

11 A. Something like that, yes.

12 Q. And how many hours would you work in an
13 average week for Brown Bedding?

14 A. Like four, four hours. He paid cash.

15 Q. I gotcha. And what did you do at Brown
16 Bedding?

17 A. Load trucks and unload trucks.

18 Q. And at the end of the week, he'd just
19 give you cash?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. What would you estimate is the
22 most money you've ever made in, like, a calendar year
23 from your employment or whatever sources of income
24 you have?

25 A. The most money I ever made was on the

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1 President Casino. That was in '94 to '98.

2 Q. You worked at the President Casino?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. What were you doing there?

5 A. Porter. I was a porter, housekeeper.

6 Q. Okay. Do you remember how much you were
7 paid then?

8 A. I think, like, \$9 an hour.

9 Q. Okay. And when you worked there, was it,
10 like, a 40-hour work week?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And did you work pretty much every week
13 of the year?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And I apologize. You said about
16 \$9 an hour, give or take?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. Have you ever made more than \$10
19 per hour doing any of the jobs you ever worked?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. And what is -- was -- your job at
22 the President Casino, you said it was about four
23 years, '94 to '98?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Is that the longest term you've held a

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1 A. No, she just paid the lawyer, then he --
2 he came and got me.

3 Q. After the four months?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. So, your trial didn't happen --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- four months after that?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. But you spent four months in jail, there
10 was another period of time, then there was your
11 trial?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. All right. And aside from that
14 stint and the 62 days in 2011, you've never been
15 locked up?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Maybe overnight or something while
18 you were getting processed on the misdemeanor, but
19 nothing of any length over that, right?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. Okay. Let's go ahead and talk about
22 August 20, 2011. Were you arrested on August 20,
23 2011, in the city of St. Louis?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. And did that arrest involve the

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1 petty larceny charge that may or may -- I have it
2 written down here as a conviction, but I don't know
3 if that's right or not, but when you were arrested on
4 August 20, 2011, were you arrested because you were
5 accused of stealing beer and some chips or whatever
6 from a convenience store?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR. HACKING: Objection,
9 calls for speculation as to why he was
10 arrested. He doesn't know why he was
11 arrested.

12 Q. What was your understanding? Why did you
13 think you were getting arrested?

14 A. The beer.

15 Q. Okay. And my understanding of the facts
16 is that you went to one of the -- was it the 711
17 there at, like, Gravois and Jefferson and Sidney and
18 there was, like, six streets there?

19 A. No, it was a filling station, Phillips
20 66.

21 Q. Across the street?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. And do you understand that you
24 were accused of stealing beer and a bag of chips from
25 that?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And where were you arrested that
3 day?

4 A. At this park off of Jefferson.

5 Q. Okay, the park near the convenience
6 store?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And were you drinking the beer at the
9 time?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Were you drinking some beer either prior
12 to that or?

13 A. Well, before. Before then --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- yes.

16 Q. When did you start drinking that day?

17 A. Started around about, like, 12.

18 Q. Okay. And if the timeline is correct,
19 you had made earlier in the week or the week before
20 had a pretty good indication you were getting a job
21 at Goodwill?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. And then what -- was there any
24 particular reason why you were drinking on that date
25 or just felt like having a few beers?

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1 A. Just felt like having a few beers.

2 Q. Okay. Was Mr. Brown with you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Were you alone?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Who were you with?

7 A. I was with a group of guys. You know,
8 we -- You know, that -- that's where they come sit
9 and drink and barbecue and just listen to music.

10 Q. Okay. Were these, like, friends of yours
11 or just some people you kind of knew from that area?

12 A. People I knew.

13 Q. Okay. And you were drinking and
14 barbecuing and listening to music?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. At some point, did you run out of beer?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is that when you decided to go to the
19 convenience store?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. One way or another, the case is
22 closed. Did you steal beer that day?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And you went back to the group,
25 right?

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1 going over to court?

2 A. I had -- I had an orange jumpsuit on.

3 Q. Okay. And I presume anyone else who was
4 going over with you that wasn't a sheriff also had
5 that matching orange jumpsuit?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. All right. And do you know, did you go
8 over the catwalk or sky bridge that goes from the
9 Justice Center over to the Carnahan Courthouse?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And was a sheriff escorting you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Do you remember how many sheriffs
14 were escorting you to court?

15 A. I think it was two.

16 Q. Two? All right. Do you remember what
17 the sheriffs looked like?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. On your way to court, were you
20 asking questions of the sheriff?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. So, if I understand this
23 correctly, on your way to court on that Monday
24 morning, you were just kind of doing as you were
25 told, for lack of a better term?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. All right. And how many courtrooms did
3 you go to that day?

4 A. Just one.

5 Q. Just one, all right. Tell me about what
6 happened when you got to that courtroom.

7 A. When I got in the courtroom, I sit down
8 and the judge, she was reading people's names and --

9 Q. When she would read their name, would
10 they stand up and go talk to the judge?

11 A. No, we would sit like where the jury sit
12 at --

13 Q. Right.

14 A. -- behind the little --

15 Q. I know what you're talking about.

16 A. Yeah. No, we'll just stand and just look
17 at her.

18 Q. Just so she knew that there was a body to
19 match that -- that case at that point?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. All right. At some point -- At some
22 point, did you get a chance to talk with the judge?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And did you have a lawyer in the
25 courtroom that day that was there on your behalf like

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1 convinced Judge Hogan that you weren't Corey Leonard.
2 Does that refresh your memory of what happened that
3 day in court?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Probably felt good, right, okay,
6 this one case is, you know -- they're -- Did you
7 think that the thing was getting resolved?

8 MR. HACKING: I'm going to
9 object to the form and also misstates
10 his testimony. He didn't know whether
11 it was one case or not at the time.

12 MR. EMERSON: I just
13 refreshed his recollection. He said he
14 did.

15 (Questions by Mr. Emerson)

16 Q. Anyway, what was your understanding after
17 you left Judge Hogan's courtroom? Did you think you
18 were free -- that you were going to be getting out of
19 jail?

20 A. I thought I was.

21 Q. Okay. All right. What happened after
22 you left Judge Hogan's courtroom? I presume, did you
23 go straight back to the jail? You know, did the
24 sheriff take you back to the jail or did you have to
25 go wait somewhere?

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1 A. Went straight back to the jail.

2 Q. Okay. With the -- With the sheriffs?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Were you asking -- or -- Were you asking
5 the sheriffs about what was going on at that point
6 since you had now been to court and some things had
7 happened at least on one of the cases?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. So, I think we've established when
10 you were going to court that morning, you didn't talk
11 to the sheriffs?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Short of them probably asking you your
14 name and you saying your name was Cedric Wright?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. Same thing on the way back?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. All right. At -- At some point when the
19 sheriffs take you back, you go across that bridge
20 again, you're back in the jail, they give you back to
21 the jail; correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. And did they give or do you -- did
24 you hold onto that piece of paper from the court that
25 day or did the sheriff have it?

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1 misdemeanor.

2 Q. The misdemeanor of Corey Leonard's, not
3 the beer charge that you had, right?

4 A. Well, I'm thinking the beer charge.

5 Q. Okay. All right. At some point you
6 realized that wasn't the case, though, right?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. Okay. Now, when you get back from court,
9 did you have a conversation with any other CO's, you
10 know, asking about your case, asking them to look up
11 charges, things of that nature?

12 A. Well, when I got back from court,
13 that's -- that's when I seen the dark-skinned guy,
14 the sheriff, and, so, I asked him what I'm being
15 charged with and --

16 Q. Okay, let me stop you. And you may have
17 been confused, so I just want to clear this up. On
18 your way back from court with the sheriffs, you had
19 earlier testified that you didn't talk to them. It
20 sounds like did you maybe have a conversation with a
21 black sheriff?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Asking about your charges?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you remember how that conver- -- you

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1 know, what happened during the conversation?

2 A. Well, when I got -- got out the cell and,
3 so, I just walked up to him and I asked him, you
4 know, what I'm being charged with and that's when he
5 say, you know, I have a felony warrant.

6 Q. Okay. So, you had the two felony -- your
7 understanding when you got back from the court based
8 on what the sheriff told you is you still have two
9 felony cases that a judge needs to do something on,
10 basically?

11 A. Well, me and him, you know, didn't pretty
12 much talk 'cause he was kind of being mean about it,
13 but he said I have a felony warrant.

14 Q. Okay. And that's why you weren't going
15 to be able to go home?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. That was your understanding?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. All right. Did you have any other
20 conversations with the black sheriff or anybody else
21 in a brown sheriffs' uniform?

22 A. No.

23 Q. All right. So, you come back now,
24 you're -- you're downtown for about a week before
25 you're going out to the Workhouse; correct?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. All right. Did you go back to the same
3 pod where you had been before you went to court?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay. Did you go to a different pod?

6 A. Actually I didn't go to no pod. They put
7 me in, like, a little cell, you know, with other
8 guys.

9 Q. Was it your understanding you were just
10 being held there until they were going to take you up
11 to Hall Street?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is that what happened?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you have an opportunity to talk to
16 anybody like the corrections officers, CO's, anyone
17 like that, did you talk to anybody, like, you know,
18 before you went out to the Workhouse?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. At some point, and I will
21 represent to you it would have been on August 24,
22 which would have been, I guess, the Wednesday, so you
23 would have been downtown for two days and then,
24 according to your jail file, you went out to --

25 MR. HACKING: Two days after

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1 court?

2 Q. Two days after court. So, you went to
3 court on a Monday. That Wednesday at -- I hate
4 military time -- 6:38 -- No, I'm sorry. That
5 Wednesday at 6:54 --

6 MR. HACKING: Did it break?
7 (At this point, there was
8 a short interruption.)

9 Q. Do you dispute -- I mean, the jail record
10 says you got transferred on a Wednesday at 6:50, so
11 it would have been, like, a Wednesday night you would
12 have got to the Workhouse on Hall Street; does that
13 sound about right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And when you got to the Workhouse
16 on Hall Street, did they do some sort of, like, and
17 intake with you and probably everybody else that was
18 in the van? Did they check to make sure your name,
19 you know --

20 A. Yes. Well, yes.

21 Q. -- to make sure all the paperwork
22 matched?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. All right. And did you -- Take me
25 through the process when you're at the Workhouse

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1 there. I presume it's not like you come in, they
2 say -- Well, let me ask you this: They say you're
3 Cedric Wright, your armband says Cedric Wright, you
4 stay over there, or do you meet with people before
5 you actually are assigned to where you're going to
6 be?

7 A. Well, once we, you know, first pass the
8 gates, come around to the back, we come around to the
9 back, pass the gates, once we get in, they tell us to
10 stand by the wall and they call out your name, you
11 know, make sure it's the right person and --

12 Q. And when they were calling out your name,
13 they were calling out Cedric Wright --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- were they? Okay. Go on.

16 A. And, so, stood by the wall and had to
17 wait for your name to be called to get processed in
18 the computer and, so -- so, after we got processed,
19 on the left-hand side, it was, like, three or four
20 cells, so they had letters, they called by letters,
21 so then that's when they told each individual to go
22 to that cell, you know what I'm saying, it might be
23 H, O, B, you know -- you know, to go to that cell.

24 Q. I followed. Did -- Were you offered a
25 chance to make a phone call and did you give

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1 information, which I presume you may have given,
2 like, your sister or someone, your outside contact
3 information, do you remember having to go through
4 that --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- exercise? If I say you had a
7 caseworker, does a caseworker at MSI, does that sound
8 familiar? Does that mean anything to you?

9 A. Yes, I had a caseworker.

10 Q. Okay. Miss Portwood?

11 A. I can't remember her name.

12 Q. Okay, but you did have a caseworker?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And is that who you met with during the
15 initial intake at some point?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. It looks like you would have met
18 with her kind of late, at about eleven o'clock that
19 night --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- when you were first there?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. She indicated that you were given
24 a phone call and it says contact made, whatever that
25 means. Do you remember that and she asked you if you

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1 wanted to make a phone call?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you make a phone call?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Who did you call?

6 A. My sister.

7 Q. And did you actually get in touch with
8 your sister?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. What did you tell your sister?

11 A. Well, I told her they locked me up and
12 I'm down at the Workhouse.

13 Q. Okay. Did you tell her anything about
14 these aren't my charges or anything of that nature or
15 was it just a short phone call, Hey, this is where I
16 am, you're not going to see me for a while?

17 A. Well, I had mentioned that to her that
18 they, you know, saying that, you know, I had felony
19 charges, which she knew that I didn't --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- but, you know, I told her that.

22 Q. Did you ask her to contact Mr. Zotos or
23 any lawyers or anything for you or?

24 A. Well, she tried, but, you know, and, no,
25 she ain't have no money to get a lawyer or nothing,

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1 so couldn't get no lawyer.

2 Q. At any time -- And I understand in
3 October you wrote a letter to Mary Fox, who is a
4 public defender?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Before that, had -- had you or anyone on
7 your behalf made an opportunity to either get you a
8 lawyer or to get you an appointment with, like, a
9 public defender?

10 A. Well, they denied me of the public
11 defender, but I never did see no lawyer.

12 Q. Okay. And let's go -- And what did you
13 say? Did you ask for a public defender when you
14 talked to the judge the first time that Monday?

15 A. No, no. What -- What happened as far as
16 it's like on a -- it's like a Wednesday or a Friday,
17 you know, the CEO's (sic) come around and hand you a
18 sheet, a piece of paper as far as about the public
19 defenders, so -- so when I filled mine's out and when
20 it came back, they -- they say that I was denied.

21 Q. Oh, so, you didn't qualify for a public
22 defender?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Okay. All right. When did you get to
25 fill out that sheet, when you were downtown or when

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1 you were on Hall Street?

2 A. On Hall Street.

3 Q. Okay. All right. Do you know, was
4 that -- I guess we're jumping around a little bit.
5 You talked to the caseworker?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And did you tell the -- When did
8 you make the phone call to your sister, was it after
9 you met with the caseworker or while you were meeting
10 with her? I mean, did she have a phone on her desk
11 and said you could make a phone call?

12 A. Yeah, she had a phone on her desk. While
13 I was with her.

14 Q. Okay. And then did you explain to the
15 caseworker what you thought was going on?

16 A. I really didn't talk to her.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. 'Cause, you know, I just got my shot and
19 made the phone call, talked to my sister, then after
20 that, went back. I left.

21 Q. What do you mean, you have your
22 opportunity to talk to her or she, like, gave you a
23 shot or something?

24 A. Well, a TB shot.

25 Q. Oh, the medical people were?

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1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay. All right. So, you talked to the
3 caseworker, you make your phone call, and at that
4 point, MSI doesn't have pods, they have dorms, right?
5 The big rooms?

6 A. Well, it was overcrowded, so --

7 Q. We'll get to that, but you were assigned
8 a place to -- a bed or I know they have those boats
9 with the mattresses in them, you were assigned
10 someplace that was going to be your place to sleep, I
11 presume?

12 A. At first I went to the pod before I went
13 to the dorm soon as I got there at the Workhouse.

14 Q. You were in a -- an area for the intake
15 with a caseworker; correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Then you moved to an area called a pod?

18 A. Yeah, I went to the pod first before I
19 went to B and O.

20 Q. Okay. How long were you in that pod
21 area? Was it hours or days or?

22 A. It was days. It was almost, like, two
23 weeks.

24 Q. Okay. And was that similar to like a pod
25 at the Justice Center where there's a cell or many

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1 cells within a contained unit?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And you were in -- were you in
4 that cell by yourself?

5 A. No, with another guy.

6 Q. Okay. Was it a 2-man cell, two beds?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that picture that's like a sink and a
9 toilet all in one, one of those deals?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And you stayed there for about two
12 weeks?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did -- During that two weeks, were you
15 asking any CO's or your caseworker to figure out what
16 was going on with these felony cases that weren't
17 yours or that you were telling people -- Well, did
18 you talk to anybody?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. Did you try to talk to anybody?

21 A. No, because I was on lockdown 23 hours.

22 Q. And I understand that, but did you -- I
23 presume somebody still comes by and checks on you
24 periodically?

25 A. Yes. Yes, but I ain't talk to nobody

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1 down --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- at the Justice Center --

4 Q. But --

5 A. -- I mean, the Workhouse.

6 Q. And I understand you're in lockdown, but
7 did you make an attempt to talk to anybody during
8 that 2-week period in the pod at the Workhouse?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. Did you have any idea when or if
11 you had another court date?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. And aside from that initial phone
14 call you made to your sister, did you make any other
15 phone calls while you were at MSI?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Did you ever try and make phone
18 calls?

19 A. I tried.

20 Q. And tell me about that.

21 A. Well, since I didn't have no money on my
22 books, so my calls, you know, never did go through.

23 Q. So, you would, like, make a collect phone
24 call?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Okay. So, you had -- So, you would try
2 to make a call? You could actually use the phone,
3 but you weren't successful in connecting with
4 whomever you were trying to call?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Because they wouldn't accept the charges
7 or they weren't home or --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Do you know how many times you
10 tried to make a phone call?

11 A. Over five times.

12 Q. Okay. Was it the same result every time,
13 you couldn't get in touch with anyone?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Were you always trying to call your
16 sister?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And at some point, did you just
19 get frustrated that you couldn't get in touch with
20 her and you stopped making phone calls?

21 A. Yes, so, that's when I decided to write
22 letters.

23 Q. Okay. Did anyone from -- Did any CO's
24 tell you, No, Cedric, you don't get to make a phone
25 call, you don't even get to try to make a phone call?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Is one of them in the dorms, is
3 it, like, a direct line to the public defender's
4 office or is there something like a sign with the
5 public defender? Does that ring a bell?

6 A. It's a -- Well, they had a sheet of paper
7 up there.

8 Q. With the information?

9 A. Yes, to -- to call the public defenders,
10 but --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- you know, like I say, I got denied.

13 Q. And based on that denial, did you ever
14 try and call the public defenders in spite of that to
15 say, Hey, take another look, I don't have any money,
16 anything like that?

17 A. Well, I tried, but they denied me, so
18 that's when I sat down and started writing letters.

19 Q. Okay. All right. So, it sounds like you
20 made approximately or you tried to make approximately
21 five calls to your sister but couldn't get in touch
22 with her?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. And then did you try to make phone calls
25 to the public defender's office?

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1 A. Yes, I tried.

2 Q. Okay. Did you actually get in touch with
3 someone there and they said no or was it another one
4 of those deals where nobody answered the phone or?

5 A. Well, I recall one time I got through --
6 Well, you know, I tried to talk to somebody, but I
7 didn't get no -- didn't get no response, you know, so
8 I just stopped calling.

9 Q. Sure. Do you know about how many times
10 you tried to call the public defender's office?

11 A. Seems about like over five times --

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. -- but I think I got through once.

14 Q. All right. Do you know, did you talk to
15 a lawyer or did you just talk to somebody -- or did
16 you even know who was on the other line, just
17 somebody from the office?

18 A. I didn't know.

19 Q. What did you tell -- The one time you
20 actually got to talk to somebody, do you remember
21 what you told them?

22 A. I can't recall. I can't remember, it's
23 been so long.

24 Q. I understand. Do you think it was
25 probably about your cases? And what I mean by "your

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1 cases," the two felony warrants for Corey Leonard.

2 MR. HACKING: Object to the

3 form.

4 A. Well, I was -- I was trying to talk to
5 somebody, well, yeah, about the case and --

6 Q. 'Cause you just wanted to know what was
7 going on?

8 A. Yeah, what was going on, yeah, basically
9 and --

10 Q. And you couldn't get a straight answer
11 from the public defender?

12 A. I couldn't get a straight answer, right.

13 Q. All right. When you got to the dorm part
14 of the Workhouse, is that where you spent the vast
15 majority of those 62 days, probably all but maybe two
16 weeks of your -- your stint?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. What's the dynamic there? And
19 what I mean by that, I know you're not in a cell.
20 It's a big open area, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. And there's beds?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Does it almost look like an Army barracks
25 type of deal?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And how do the CO's patrol the
3 area? Are there CO's that just kind of walk about?
4 Are they stationed?

5 A. It's, like -- It's, like, 2 CEO's (sic)
6 in the hallway. They -- They sit at their desk.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. Like there be one on one end, there be
9 another on the other end and then they, you know,
10 look up and down. Some of them sometimes they do
11 walk.

12 Q. Sure. And when you're in the dorm area,
13 that wasn't the lockdown like the pod area, right?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. What I mean is, you were free to move --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- within that dorm area?

18 A. Dorm, yes.

19 Q. Okay. You weren't, like, chained to a
20 bed or anything like that?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. And you said there were two pay
23 phones in the area?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And those were accessible to anyone who

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1 was in that dorm?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. When do you think you stopped
4 trying to contact people on the phone? Was it --
5 Were you still using the pay phones in the dorm area
6 or at least trying?

7 A. Actually, I stopped when --

8 Q. Was it after that one time actually you
9 talked to somebody in the public defender's office?

10 A. Yeah, that's when I stopped.

11 Q. Were you just frustrated?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. And do you think that would have
14 been within the first week or so that you were in the
15 dorm area? I mean, were you, you know, trying every
16 day to call people and then you just stopped after
17 five days or was this something where you tried?

18 A. I'd say after a week, I really stopped
19 trying.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. That's when I started talking to the guys
22 in there and --

23 Q. Now, when you say "the guys," are you
24 talking about your fellow inmates?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Okay. And did you ever talk to any of
2 the CO's about what was going on after you had given
3 up on the calling your sister and you had given up on
4 the public defenders, did you talk to, you know,
5 somebody in a blue shirt, ask them for help or
6 anything like that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Tell -- I need to know specifically what
9 happened --

10 A. Well --

11 Q. -- if it happened more than once.

12 A. No, it just happened once.

13 Q. When do you think it was?

14 A. I'd say, like -- say, like -- like, a
15 month and a half after I -- after I was there and --

16 Q. Do you think it might have been, like,
17 early October?

18 A. No, it was, like, in, like, November.

19 Q. Well, you weren't there in November.

20 A. I mean --

21 Q. August? September?

22 A. Yes, but --

23 Q. I'm not trying to hang you up on the
24 dates.

25 A. It was, like -- It was, like, seemed like

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1 three weeks after I was there, you know.

2 Q. Okay. You talked to the CO?

3 A. Yeah, after I tried to talk to the CO,
4 then I asked them, you know -- you know --

5 Q. Let me stop you. Do you remember the
6 name of the CO --

7 A. No.

8 Q. -- that you tried to talk to?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Do you remember anything about that CO's
11 appearance, such as was it a man or a woman? Were
12 they black or white? Tall? Short?

13 A. It was a woman. She was black.

14 Q. Black woman?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. Would you recognize her if you saw
17 her out on the street?

18 A. Probably not, no.

19 Q. Okay. What do you recall about your
20 conversation with her?

21 A. When I first approached her, I gave her
22 my name. I told her my name was Cedric Wright and --

23 Q. Was she sitting at, like, a place with a
24 computer where she could look up stuff?

25 A. No, she had a sheet of paper with just

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1 stuff -- stuff write down on paper.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. And, you know, when she would look
4 through the paper and, you know, saw my name,
5 Cedric Wright, you know what I'm saying, and then,
6 you know, she had said that, you know, I ain't
7 supposed to be here, you know, in the Workhouse
8 and --

9 Q. Because it was Corey Leonard's warrants?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Did you ever explain to her this
12 whole mixup that was going on?

13 A. I didn't talk to her that long, but she
14 told me that I ain't supposed to be there, so I took
15 it ass -- you know, asking for myself to -- that's
16 why I, you know, like I say, talk to the inmates and
17 then I went on and sit down and wrote -- that's when
18 I found out about Mary Fox was. That's when I wrote
19 her then.

20 Q. She's got to take down everything you're
21 saying.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. I -- I've been practicing law for nine
24 years. I still talk too fast. I sometimes jumble my
25 words. It's just something you've got to kind of

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1 slow it down.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. Did you ask that female CO about, like, a
4 court date or anything like that for you?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay. Did -- Did you ask that CO to
7 contact a lawyer for you?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you ever ask anyone at Corrections to
10 see your caseworker?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. Did anyone -- Did you have any
13 visitors come out to the Workhouse when you were
14 there?

15 A. My sister and my lady, she came, Adrian.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. Oh, I know her last name. I remember.
18 Her last name was Smallwood.

19 Q. Smallwood?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. So, Sharon is your sister's name,
22 right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So, Sharon and Adrian came to visit you?

25 A. Yes.

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1 sister trying to stay in touch with her and, you
2 know, she was horrible at writing me back, so
3 that's -- that was my contact right there.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And then --

6 Q. Now, it looks like the -- And I want to
7 check this with you. My records indicate you would
8 have sent one letter to Mary Fox and it was dated
9 October 16 of 2011. Do you -- Do you -- Do you think
10 you sent more than one letter to Mary Fox or do you
11 think it was just that one?

12 A. Just that one.

13 Q. Okay. And what -- you handwrote that
14 letter, I presume?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. And what -- briefly, tell me what
17 was in that letter to Mary Fox. You just explain
18 your situation?

19 A. Yes, I was telling about -- What was it?
20 Well, I pretty much remember this. I had asked her,
21 you know, to check into my case and can you find out
22 what's going on and -- and -- and tell me what's
23 going on as far as, you know --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. -- about my case.

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1 Q. And does that sound about right to you,
2 you would have sent that letter on October 16?

3 A. That sound about right.

4 Q. Okay. You were released on October 20;
5 correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Aside from what we've discussed
8 about your sister trying to get a lawyer and you, you
9 know, unsuccessfully making phone calls to the public
10 defender's office, had you made any other attempts to
11 contact a lawyer?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. In terms of visitors, were you
14 ever denied access to visitors by anyone from the
15 jail staff?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. What about anybody from the
18 sheriff's staff?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. Were you ever denied access to the
21 telephone by any jail staff?

22 A. No.

23 Q. What about any sheriff staff?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. And it sounds like you were

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1 writing letters -- you wrote the one letter to
2 Mary Fox?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And several letters to your sister?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. As far as you know, did your sister get
7 all those letters?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And I think it's pretty obvious Mary Fox
10 got the letter?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did anyone ever deny you mail service,
13 either sending out your mail or letting you get your
14 mail, did any jail staff deny that to you?

15 A. No.

16 Q. What about any sheriff staff?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did -- Do you know who Charles Bryson is?

19 A. I can't recall.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I don't know.

22 Q. Do you know if when you were either at
23 the Justice Center or the Workhouse, did you ever
24 have any encounters with Charles Bryson? Did you see
25 him? Did you talk to him? Did you send him a

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1 letter?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. What about Gene Stubblefield, did
4 you have any interaction with Gene at all? And I'll
5 represent to you he was the superintendent at the
6 time, kind of a warden, for lack of a better term.

7 A. No.

8 Q. What about a gentleman named Eddie Roth?

9 A. No.

10 Q. What about Sheriff Jim Murphy? He's an
11 elderly guy, gray hair, white guy.

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. What about a gentleman named Mike
14 Guzy? He's a tall, slim white guy with bald head --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- moustache. You had mentioned an
17 African American sheriff that took you back from
18 court that first date; correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. If I said the name Benny Goins, do
21 you think that -- And Benny Goins is a sheriff. It
22 looks like the records were that he transported you
23 on that date and he is black. Do you know
24 Benny Goins?

25 A. I can't recall by name, but I remember

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1 his face.

2 Q. Okay, sure. And that was the interaction
3 you had with the sheriff asking about the cases and
4 he said you had felony warrants still?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. What about a lady name in the
7 sheriff's office named Ruthann Alberti, did you ever
8 have any encounter with her?

9 A. No.

10 Q. All right. You said you talked to other
11 inmates?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I'm sure you talked to them about a
14 number of things. You guys were all locked up
15 together, right?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. And at some point, did you start asking,
18 Hey, what should I do? I mean, were you just
19 reaching out for anyone who would help or what?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. It was another inmate that
22 suggested to you to write a letter to Mary Fox?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. Were you talking to these other
25 inmates? Were you explaining to them what's going

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1 on, that you have these felony cases that aren't
2 yours and?

3 A. Yes, because it was -- it was another guy
4 in there, too, that pretty much had the same cases I
5 had, so that's --

6 Q. You mean like a similar situation?

7 A. Yeah, so that's where the conversation
8 came about.

9 Q. Was he the one who told you to write a
10 letter to Mary Fox?

11 A. No, I can't recall his name, but --

12 Q. Do you remember the name of the guy that
13 was similarly situated to you?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I can't remember.

17 Q. Do you remember what he looked like?

18 A. Well, I know he -- he wore glasses and he
19 was bald head.

20 Q. Wasn't me, was it?

21 A. No.

22 Q. I think we've discussed your interactions
23 with corrections officers, but I want to ask, 'cause
24 I don't want to miss anything, were there any
25 instances where we haven't discussed where you were

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1 telling jail staff, CO's, caseworkers, whomever that
2 you were not Corey Leonard? Aside from you asking
3 about the cases, which I know we've already
4 discussed, but was there ever a time where you just
5 reached out to somebody, a corrections officer, and
6 said, I am not Corey Leonard?

7 A. Well, to be honest with you, they knew
8 that because they kept calling me by Cedric and --

9 Q. That's fair enough, but be that as it
10 may, you were still there on Corey's felony warrants?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And what I'm asking is, did you ever --

13 A. No.

14 Q. -- reach -- Okay, thank you. What about
15 anyone -- What about anybody from the sheriff's
16 office?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. Aside from that initial intake
19 with Miss Portwood on August 24, did you ever speak
20 with your caseworker again?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did anyone deny you access to your
23 caseworker if you had asked?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And "anyone," I mean any jail staff.

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1 A. No.

2 MR. HACKING: Calls for
3 speculation.

4 Q. Did anyone deny you access to your
5 caseworker?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Was it your understanding if you wanted
8 to see a caseworker that you could?

9 A. I could, yeah.

10 Q. Okay. Did you ever fill out any -- Do
11 you know what an IRR is over at the Workhouse? If
12 you had, like, a problem with a CO or an inmate, you
13 could fill out --

14 A. Right.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you know those existed, those forms,
18 that you could fill out a form if you had a grievance
19 or you wanted something resolved?

20 A. No. Actually not, no.

21 Q. Okay. You weren't aware of that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. All right. Did you ever ask anybody, any
24 jail staff, if there was a form you could fill out or
25 some type of paperwork you could complete to, you

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1 know, try and get this matter resolved?

2 A. No.

3 Q. All right. Did any jail staff ever deny
4 you access to the -- what I call the grievance
5 process?

6 A. No.

7 Q. We're just about finished. Famous last
8 words. Your lawyer -- Your lawyers have provided
9 some names to me of some people and I just want to
10 see if you know them or their situation personally.
11 I just want to see that, okay? So, I'm going to ask
12 you about less than ten people. Do you know anyone
13 named Jeffrey A. Smith?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you know anyone named Eugene Hamilton?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Do you know a gentleman named Antonio M.
18 Johnson?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Do you know any Antonio Johnsons?

21 A. No.

22 Q. What about an Oliver C. Johnson?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Any Oliver Johnsons in general?

25 A. No.

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1 to the jail, actually to the courtroom, did you talk
2 to any Corrections staff, jail, you know, CO's or
3 whatnot about your case or about what was going on?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay. What about any sheriff's deputies?

6 A. No.

7 Q. All right. So, you get to court. And is
8 it similar to the last time you were there, you go
9 into the jury box, you stand up when your name was
10 called, or was this different? Were you the only
11 defendant in court?

12 A. No, it was -- it was, like, two more
13 other people in there with me.

14 Q. Okay. And there were probably lawyers
15 and a bunch of other people in the courtroom?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And did Mary come up to you or how
18 did that interaction happen?

19 A. Yes, she came up to me.

20 Q. Okay. Said, Mr. Wright, I got your
21 letter?

22 A. Yes, she -- she called my name.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And then she --

25 Q. All right.

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1 A. -- walked towards me --

2 Q. All right.

3 A. -- 'cause --

4 Q. And did you explain to her everything
5 that had been going on?

6 A. No, she -- she -- she -- she looked in my
7 papers. No, I can't do that much talking in there,
8 so she had looked through my papers and told me
9 what's going on and then she went back to where the
10 judge was and got a form, she filled a form out and
11 hand it to the judge and --

12 Q. Did you talk to the judge?

13 A. I seen her, but I ain't talk to her, but
14 I seen her.

15 Q. Okay. She didn't bring you up and ask
16 you questions about --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- are you Cedric Wright?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Once I sit down, I stayed in my seat.
22 That's --

23 Q. I understand.

24 A. -- as far as I can go.

25 Q. I understand.

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1 A. And -- But -- But when he called my name,
2 I stood up and, you know, that's when he say, you
3 know, you're free to go.

4 Q. Okay. And did -- did Miss Fox talk to
5 the judge on your behalf do you think?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Did -- At any point when you were
8 locked up, did you ask anybody, any jail staff or any
9 sheriff staff to take your fingerprints or anything
10 like that to try and prove your identity?

11 A. They took my fingerprints.

12 Q. I understand that the police processed
13 you and took your fingerprints. What I'm asking is
14 did you ask for them to compare yours to
15 Corey Leonard's or anything like that.

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Did -- Did you ever have to --
18 Aside from when you got processed, were you
19 fingerprinted again from somebody else at the police
20 department probably to check your prints against
21 Corey's?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. So, you're in court on October 20
24 in the afternoon?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. You get the order from the judge. Did
2 Mary come and explain to you what's going on that you
3 were going to be released?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I'm sure that was quite a relief to you.

6 A. Yes, it was.

7 Q. But you weren't released yet, so you
8 probably thought, well, you know, I'll believe it
9 when I see it, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. So, did you have to go all the way
12 back to Hall Street to get released or were you
13 released from downtown?

14 A. I was released from downtown.

15 Q. Okay. And they gave you all your
16 property back that you would have been taken in on?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. All right. I apologize. I thought I had
19 covered everything, and then when I asked you, that's
20 when it reminded me that I hadn't. That's why we
21 call it the practice of law. We're just practicing.
22 Karin is going to talk to you or Miss Schute is going
23 to talk to you about the arrest, but in terms of your
24 62 days in -- in the Workhouse and CJC, is there
25 anything that I missed that you think is important